Public Consultation Report

Yukon Protected Areas Strategy

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Yukon
Government

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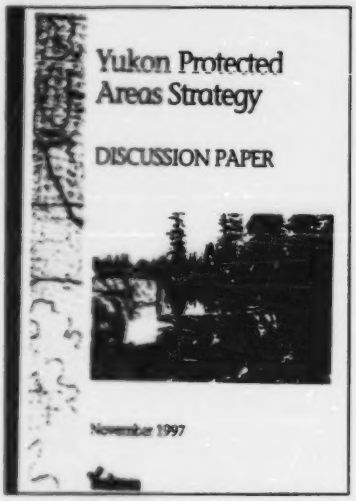
1.0 Introduction

This report contains the comments received from the first phase of full public consultation for the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy. A series of open house events and meetings were held throughout the Yukon in November 1997, December 1997 and January 1998 (Appendix 1). Each open house included government staff and a variety of panels that discussed the protected areas strategy process. These open houses also included displays on the Yukon Forest Strategy. This report includes comments people made for the Protected Areas Strategy only.



The background document called the *Protected Areas Discussion Paper* was provided to focus discussion and feedback. Responses are presented in this report according to the questions from the discussion paper.

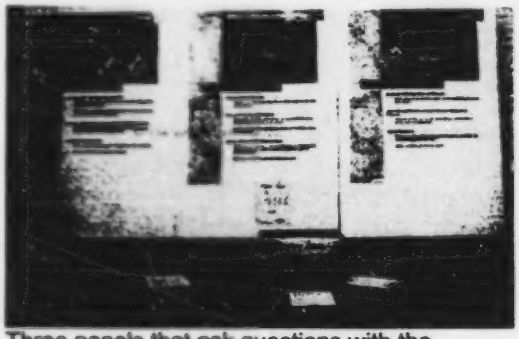
2.0 How did we record your comments?

Comments on the Protected Areas Strategy came from open house events, meetings, questionnaires and letters. This includes 70 questionnaires, 37 letters and a total of over 407 people who attended a Yukon open house or meeting (Appendix 1).

Protected Areas panel layout at open house.

Public comments during this round of consultation were recorded in two ways. During open houses and meetings government staff made notes to record verbal comments. Other comments came written as letters or responses to questionnaires. This report presents both verbal and written comments.

Comments were reviewed to determine common themes. This report presents the common themes and the number of times a certain topic was raised in the course of discussions. The numbers do not represent an accurate indication of the specific numbers of individuals who had these opinions. Often a topic would be raised during a meeting where a number of people would share the same opinion, but recording the actual number of people with this opinion was difficult. Therefore, these numbers are subject to some error, and only give a general indication of the level of respondent priority. A selection of respondent quotes are also found throughout this report.



Three panels that ask questions with the questionnaire placed on the table below.

3.0 Public Comments

3.1 A Vision for Protected Areas

Question 1) What is your long-term vision for a system of protected areas in the Yukon?

General	**# noted**
• a system of core protected areas	52
• a system of buffers and corridors to connect the core areas	46
• the boundaries of protected areas should be permanent	7
• The protected areas strategy should include both public and private lands	4
• not all values need to be protected through the creation of protected areas	4
The size and extent of the protected areas network	
• the protected areas should be large	56
• the areas should be small	8
• YPAS should set clear limits to the amount to be protected	6
• as little as possible should be protected	5
The kinds of areas that should be protected (see also question 2)	
• areas to protect ecological health and integrity	47
• areas to protect traditional use/lifestyle	37
• important wildlife habitat	31
• areas representing each of the 23 ecoregions	21
• the protected areas network should reflect a balanced approach which considers environmental, social and economic values	21
• areas that can help generate park related economic activities (i.e.: tourism etc.)	20
• areas to preserve biodiversity	13
• wilderness areas	11
• heritage areas	8
• all wetlands	7
• intact watersheds	6
• special and unique natural features	3
Activities that should be allowed in protected areas (also see question 3)	
• industrial development i.e. mining, timber harvesting, hydro-electric should not be allowed	22
• tourism related economic activities should be allowed	14
• areas should include visitor services (interpretive centers etc.)	6
• different types of areas should allow different levels of use	6
• Industries such as mining and logging should be allowed	3
How protected areas should be developed (also see question 4)	
• by working together for our future generations	8
• by basing our decisions on sound scientific knowledge and research	6
• by using the principles of conservation biology	5
• by maintaining a global perspective	4
• through using local and traditional knowledge	3

Some long-term vision statements received from respondents:

"My vision is pattern of connected larger-scale protected areas, because the Yukon is one of the areas where this still could be possible."
A respondent, Carmacks

"The system of protected areas should be limited to a few, small, well-selected parks in areas of high usage or outstanding scenic/ environmental value. The majority of the Yukon requires no *protection*, and will require none for the foreseeable future."
A respondent, Whitehorse

"The Yukon Protected Areas Strategy should provide a set of commonly agreed upon guidelines that assist in the identification, selection, designation, management and protection of unique and special Yukon land areas. The application of guidelines will make best efforts to balance the needs for ecological integrity, economic development, and cultural significance with the objective of providing future generations of Canadians with a rich mix of wilderness activity, cultural enrichment and economic sustainability."
Yukon Chamber of Commerce (YCC)

"The long term vision must be one based on ecological criteria and the science of conservation biology, with the input of traditional First Nations knowledge. We must have a coordinated system of core protected areas protected by buffer zones and linked by biological corridors."
Friends of Yukon Rivers

"The Strategy should provide guidance on where there are gaps in protection and what ecological and other criteria will be used to identify potential protected areas that will fill these gaps."
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Yukon Chapter (CPAWS-Yukon)

"Our Vision of protected areas in the Yukon focuses on preserving the biodiversity and ecological integrity of the territory through the establishment of a network of protected areas. Designating areas representative of each of the Yukon's 23 ecoregions, and other areas of unique biological importance, key wetlands and significant wildlife habitat, the YPAS must ensure complete protection of core areas significant enough in size to allow for the long term maintenance of biological functions within ecosystems."
Yukon Conservation Society (YCS)

"Series of interconnected tracts of undisturbed wild lands - no industrial activities in these core areas; surrounded by buffer zones with limited activities."
A respondent, Whitehorse

"The Protected Areas Strategy has to be a process by which the values to be protected are beneficial to the Yukon populace as a whole. I certainly do support the protection of certain core representative areas, but only after a very thorough study and assessment of all aspects of said areas, be they ecological or economical, coming forth from this process. There should be a system of ranking for both ecological and economic values, from which ideally the protection of ecological reserves with the highest value would be located on land masses of the lowest economic potential."
Klondike Placer Miners Association

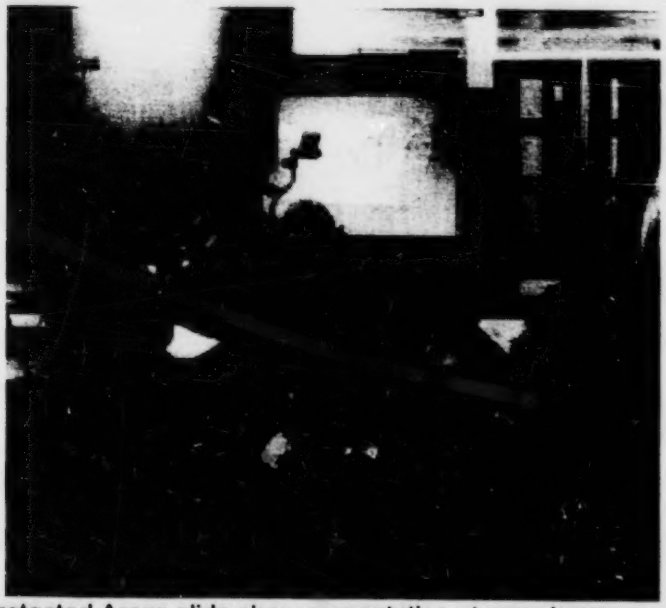
Some long-term vision statements received from respondents (con't):

"Protected Areas must preserve and protect wilderness from any substantial development activity which would fundamentally change the natural characteristics of land or water. We believe that "substantial development activity" would include: road construction, hydro-electric projects, electrical transmission lines, oil and gas pipelines, mines, logging, or commercial timer harvesting, and permanent human settlement. We believe that outfitting is and has always been compatible with the concept of wilderness protection. Outfitters are committed to preserving wilderness for its intrinsic value."
Yukon Outfitters Association

"The wilderness tourism industry obviously needs intact wilderness if there is to be any future for the wilderness tourism in the Yukon. We also realize that we are able to contribute to the long term sustainability of the Yukon economy by attracting visitors to the Yukon. We are able to lure people to the territory only because of its reputation of having large unbroken tracts of intact wilderness and wildlife habitat."
Wilderness Tourism Association of Yukon (WTAY)

"A system that protects ecological, cultural, and sensitive areas that are connected and provide lasting wildlife needs protection, tourism opportunities, and limited resource extraction."
Bruce Sundbo, Haines Junction

"A system that will see an equal and balanced common sense use of land by all participating groups including those making use of the natural resources."
Yukon Chamber of Mines



Protected Areas slide show presentation at open house event.

3.2 Values and Features to be Protected

Question 2a) Which type of values and features do you think should be protected?

Environmental and Wildlife Values	#
• wildlife and wildlife habitats (breeding areas, migration routes, and mineral licks)	121
• ecological processes	41
• wetlands	32
• biodiversity	28
• water quality	27
• wilderness	17
• unique and special natural features	15
• whole or parts of rivers, lakes and riparian areas	12
• rare and endangered species	7
• watersheds	6
• old or mature forests	5
• umbrella species like carnivores and caribou	4
• marine coastal habitat	1
Social and Cultural Values	
• cultural and heritage values	25
• sacred, archeological, historic sites	22
• recreational values	10
• scenic and visual landscapes	8
• scientific values	6
• education	5
Economic Values	
• tourism values	21
• the economic values of protected areas need to be identified	9
• mineral development values	3
Other	
• areas within communities	6
• intrinsic values	5

Some comments from respondents:

"With the down turn of the mining industry in the Yukon, we need to turn elsewhere for our economic future. Protected areas provide an excellent opportunity to develop and enhance our tourism infrastructure. Opportunities for enhancing tourism business should be emphasized."
A respondent, Dawson

"If sufficiently large areas of prospective geology are excluded from exploration and key access routes are included in the protected areas, no exploration will be conducted. The exploration industry needs a certain quantum of land in order to function. This land must include regions of favourable geology and be connected by access routes."
Yukon Prospectors Association

3.2 Values and Features to be Protected (con't.)

Question 2b) In what types of areas would you expect to find these values and features?

General statements:

- throughout the Yukon
- important watersheds
- areas near the edges of glaciers and their boundaries
- wetlands, rivers, lakes
- key wildlife habitat
- salmon spawning grounds
- special features like hotsprings, ice free bays at outlets of lakes for migrating birds, mineral licks, sand dunes
- old growth forests
- undisturbed, remote and road-less wilderness
- occurrences of rare, threatened or endangered species
- near existing protected areas, currently protected areas, and SMA selections
- community areas
- traditional hunting grounds
- heritage at abandoned town sites, at exploration camps and at historic human use areas

Actual areas mentioned:

- all throughout the Yukon
- Southeast Yukon
- Dempster Highway
- Tombstone
- Aberdeen Falls
- Coal River
- Snake River
- Bonnet Plume River
- Mount Nansen
- Kluane Game Sanctuary
- Kusawa Lake
- Hess
- Beaver Valley
- La Biche
- Hyland
- Mac Pass
- Finlayson Caribou Herd Area
- Lower Kathleen Lake
- Killerman Lake/waterfowl habitat
- N. end of Kluane / waterfowl habitat
- Whitefish Lake
- Pine and Stone River area
- Fishing Branch
- Johnson Creek
- Bell River
- Archibald Creek
- Southern Tintina Trench / Shakwak Trench

Some comments from respondents:

"One area that has many of the features and values mentioned in this section is the Kluane Wildlife Sanctuary. The area has wonderful features such as old volcanoes, pillow lava, dikes, volcanic ash, (particularly in the Brooke Plateau area), dunes of volcanic ash, giant concretions, glaciers and of course, mountains that are Himalayan look-a-likes."
Keith Lay, Whitehorse

"Anywhere in the Yukon - wilderness or municipality."
A respondent, Whitehorse

3.3 Activities Allowed Within Protected Areas

Question 3a) What role should policy and legislation play in determining which activities should be allowed within different types of protected areas?

General Comments on the role of legislation	#
• legislation needs to be stronger to ensure that protection is maintained	26
• legislation should outline what activities can or can not take place in protected areas	15
• legislation should allow different uses in different types of areas	13
• it should ensure meaningful public consultation in the protected area process	10
• legislation should determine acceptable standards of protection for Territorial Parks, Ecological Reserves, and National Parks.	7
• the rules should be the same for First Nations and non-First Nations	3
• policy and legislation should play minimal role. Yukoners should determine activities in protected area.	3
• strong penalties should be issued for violations	2
• link with other related legislation like DAP and Wildlife Act	2

Comments on Specific Activities	
• legislation should specify that core areas should have no industrial development	35
• some types of areas should allow multiple uses such as mining and logging	11
• tourism and wilderness recreation should be allowed	7
• public access should be limited where wildlife/plantlife may be significantly disturbed, especially if rare and endangered.	5
• legislation should restrict ATV, 4x4, motorized vehicles and in some cases hunting	2
• local non-First Nations subsistence hunting should be allowed	2

Some comments from respondents:

"Legislation plays an important role in defining suitable activities within core protected areas, buffer zones, and migration corridors. Core protected areas must be exempt from any form of human activity that may jeopardize the ecological integrity. Buffer zones and migration corridors must be managed under legislative guidelines which will not compromise the important role these management areas play in a protected areas network."
Yukon Conservation Society

"There should be a mechanism to support varying levels of protection as dictated by the system of ranking. This would in turn lend to the multi-usage concept of some protected areas."
Klondike Placer Miners Association

"Respect the commitment to the Endangered Spaces Campaign by upholding the minimum standards for protection in core areas. Enforce these standards with legislation to ensure the mining, logging, and hydro-electric development are not permitted in core protected areas."
Bob Jickling, Whitehorse

"Once all parties have agreed, the strategy should be enforced by legislation so the process can not be threatened. Until the strategy is finalized, lands in question should be given interim protection."
A respondent, Whitehorse

3.3 Activities Allowed Within Protected Areas (con't.)

Question 3b) What role should management planning play?

The scope of the management plan	#
• it should clearly define the objectives and management goals of the area	14
• it should define which activities are compatible with the objectives of the area	13
• it should manage the human use of the areas	9
• it should deal with activities outside of core protected areas in buffers or multi-use zones	4
• it should make recommendations on interim protection	4
• should identify actions plans for implementation	2

What should be considered	
• it should focus on protecting the ecological integrity and processes of the site	8
• it should recognize the value of critical wildlife habitat	5
• it needs to consider the impacts of different types of activities	5

The management planning process	
• should be done cooperatively with First Nations and other stakeholders at community, regional and territorial level	17
• should include public education and consultation	5
• needs to be coordinated with other agencies to provide input to management outside protected areas	3
• should be subject to 5 year reviews	1

Other	
• needs to have an ability to enforce its plans and policy.	6
• management plans need to be done on a site specific basis	3

Some comments from respondents:

"Avoid relying on management plans alone to determine whether or not industrial or other activities are suitable in the strongest forms of protected areas. The protected areas network should support a range of different types of protected areas to meet different protection objectives. Clear legislation provides useful guidelines for the preparation of management plans."
CPAWS-Yukon

"Emphasize an eco-system based management approach with science in decision-making. Transboundary issues with other jurisdiction is also a concern."
Brent Liddle, Haines Junction

"Management planning should play a major role, with all parties at the table"
Yukon Chamber of Mines

3.4 Resolving Conflicting Values and Interests

Question 4) What methods do you think the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy should use to resolve conflicting interests and values?

How the planning process should be done and who should be involved	#
• make sure everybody has the opportunity to participate	38
• share information openly with all participants	37
• Get on with the job of creating protected areas soon so that the long term potential for conflicts will be reduced	10
• use interim protection to protect areas from resource allocation	9
• do a balanced economic analysis of protected areas options and proposals	9
• create a protected areas conflict resolution board	6
• create a balance of power between participants	5
• work with First Nations	4
• build partnerships in a meaningful way	3
• use mediation	3
Have clearly established principles for protected areas planning	
• priority should be given to ecologically based principles in management plans	15
• priority should be given to scientifically based principles in management plans	8
• establish clear targets, guidelines, and ground rules for planning that all stakeholders agree to beforehand.	8
Information	
• make sure that the technical information being used is objective	11
Compensation	
• make sure that businesses that are negatively impacted are compensated	2

Some comments from respondents:

"We will all have to get together in the same room and hash it out. Everyone needs to be involved, especially those from the community."
A respondent, Faro

"Give the local needs priority. We need fresh air, clean water, moose meat and berries, timber. But we don't really need a mining corporation that imports Newfoundland's unemployment to the Yukon and leaves us with high power bills and over inflated infrastructure at their discretion."
A respondent, Carmacks

"Provide real direction from highest levels of government as well as interdepartmental seminars to get everyone on track."
A respondent, Whitehorse

"Conflict resolution must involve local community, First Nations and stakeholders. I favor workshops to collectively identify issues and work out compromise solutions."
Bruce Sundbo, Haines Junction

"Everyone needs access to all the information. Get it out in the open."
A respondent, Teslin

3.5 Coordination with Other Land and Resource Management Processes

Question 5) How can we best encourage inter-agency cooperation in developing a Yukon Protected Areas Strategy and planning for protected areas in the regions?

General comments	**#**
• coordinate with Regional Land Use Planning	33
• good communication and educational services among agencies	12
• coordinate with Forest Management Planning	10
• define the Development Assessment Process (DAP) role	9
• establish better linkages with resource management outside of protected areas	7
• recognize transboundary overlaps in traditional territories	6
• finish land claims	4
• link with the Wildlife Act	3
• recognize overlaps of ecoregions and habitats	3
• establish a new government agency for conservation management	2

Some comments from respondents:

"We are going to have to sort out how to deal with areas of overlapping land claims. This could be a real problem."
A respondent, Dawson City

"Protected areas should be established following local and territory-wide consultation within a land use planning context wherever possible. DAP should only be used to assess the impacts of management plans."
CPAWS-Yukon

"All the people will have to talk to each other."
A respondent, Whitehorse

"Fairness and balance in the process, with an understanding that all agencies have a right to pursue their specific interests"
Yukon Chamber of Mines

3.6 Planning at the Traditional Territory Level

Question 6a) Who should be involved in protected areas planning within traditional territories?

	#
The public	
• People from the local communities	60
• Yukon First Nations	48
• Everybody	25
• All Yukoners	22
• non-Yukoners	7
Governments	
• all related federal and territorial government agencies	20
• municipal councils	7
Boards and Councils	
• RRC's	20
• land use planning committees	4
Non Government Organizations and Businesses	
• environmental interest groups	9
• Logging and mining industry	8
• renewable resource industries (tourism, outfitting, trapping)	4

Some comments from respondents:

"All stakeholders should be involved - this includes the general public."
A respondent, Mayo

"First Nations, local residents and all Yukoners should have input."
A respondent, Whitehorse

"Ducks, wolves, caribou . . . ideally, however that is not possible."
A respondent

"All interagency groups and all 3 levels of government"
Yukon Chamber of Mines

3.6 Planning at the Traditional Territory Level (con't.)

Question 6b) What steps should be included in protected areas planning at the traditional territorial level?

The planning process	#
• the process should be community driven	20
• the planning process should be linked with First Nations	18
• include input from all stakeholders (includes public)	16
• include effective public education and communication	16
• the process should be consistent with the SMA provisions in the UFA	12
• the process should include interim protection	7
• support First Nations SMA proposals	5
• link on the territorial and regional scale with YLUP	2
• accept candidate site proposals from all stakeholders	1

Information gathering and analysis	
• need to do proper inventories of all resources	19
• use objective and scientific technical information	15
• conduct First Nations traditional knowledge research	14
• need ecological systems information	12
• need mineral assessments	12
• need to analyze the economic benefits of protected areas as well as the costs	6
• don't get lost in studies. If the community wants it protected, do it.	3
• collect information from local stakeholders who live off the land	1

The need for adequate resources	
• the process must include adequate resourcing to ensure local participation and input, especially with the RRCs	27

Some comments from respondents:

"Inventory resources; priorize areas (local input); choose area; re-visit area to ensure applicability; and get public support for choice."
Terry Skjonsberg, Haines Junction

We would like to see a comparison on a Yukon map and in percentage figures between the areas that are presently protected or under Yukon First Nation's jurisdiction (special management areas), areas of proposed protection, as well as areas of other interests, i.e. tourism potential, mining potential, hunting/trapping/ guiding potential, heritage sites, etc. This information would be beneficial for all Yukon stake holders in determining the best sites for protection"
Village of Mayo

"The process should have the flexibility to recognize that each region affected will have different needs and consensus. Thus regionally driven planning must be recognized."
Klondike Placer Miners Association

"The planning steps should be fairly consistent from region to region to ensure that agreed upon targets and guidelines are being met and that the process remains accessible to all interested parties."
Yukon Conservation Society

3.7 Defining which Traditional Territories should be Planned First

Question 7) Which regions or traditional territories do you think should be given priority for protected areas planning in the Yukon?

General principles for setting priorities	#
• priority to the continued negotiations of SMA's through land claims	32
• priority to areas where land claims have been completed and RRCs exist	30
• priority to regions under pressure for development where opportunities for protection may be lost if action is not taken soon	25
• priority to areas already identified for their protected areas values through research and by stakeholders	7
• priority to areas of cultural heritage	3
• priority where there is community interest and willingness	3
• priority to areas where mineral studies show mineral potential to be low	3
• priority to regions and areas that are about to under go Land Use or Forest Management Planning	1

Specific traditional territories to be given priority:	
• Vuntut Gwitchin (Bell River, Johnson Creek, Whitefish Lake, Pine and Stone River area, Fishing Branch)	37
• Na-Cho Nyak Dun (Dempster Highway, Dawson Range, Peel, Bonnet Plume)	23
• Liard (southeastern Yukon)	18
• Teslin Tlingit Council and Carcross Tagish (Southern Lakes)	9
• Ross River Dena Council (Finlayson)	4
• Kluane and White River	1
• Whitehorse (Yukon River near Riverdale)	1

Some comments from respondents:

"I believe that traditional territory planning should be nested within Yukon-wide planning, as we cannot look at each region as a separate entity existing in isolation from all other regions if we hope to achieve meaningful conservation goals."
A respondent, Whitehorse

"Regions which are under development pressure from resource industries and where opportunities for protection may be lost should be done first."
A respondent, Dawson City

"Where a mineral potential study show mineral potential to be low."
A respondent, Whitehorse

"I would like to start land use planning and protected areas planning in our area as soon as possible."
A respondent, Mayo

"The protected areas needs in the south-east Yukon should be identified quickly before development takes over."
A respondent, Whitehorse

3.8 Interim Protection

Question 8a) What type of interim protection is needed during the planning and establishment of protected areas in the Yukon?

General Comments	#
• interim protection should be given to candidate sites and study areas	33
• Governments need a stronger interim protection policy.	27
• interim protection is a very important issue and is a priority to resolve	23
• interim protection is essential to create a level playing field for all stakeholders	15
• Interim protection is not needed. Responsible companies will stay out of proposed areas anyways.	11
• interim protection will help provide better security for everyone	11
• the problem with interim protection is that it is rarely interim	9
• the use of interim protection should be limited	6
• Interim protection restricts resource exploration and creates an uncertain investment climate	5
• use a series of steps to identify and provide interim protection	3

Some comments from respondents:

"WTAY feels that the YPAS must include interim protection tools. Current land and resource use legislation is seriously unbalanced, favouring private industrial development interests rather than public conservation interests. If the government is serious about its commitment to establishing a system of protected areas within the next two years they will need tools to protect these areas in the interim."
Wilderness Tourism Association of Yukon

"The possibility of interim protection anywhere and throughout the Yukon will discourage industry investment (particularly mining by far our greatest economic contributor)." And "Investment will be less discouraged if we get on with it, and finalize protected areas quickly."
A respondent, Whitehorse

"Interim protection must be for the whole study area, not just part of it."
A respondent, Dawson City

"Clearly identify areas to be protected. Publish maps and notify citizens to allow interested stakeholders sufficient time to appeal and interim protection."
Dorine Girouard, Whitehorse

"Strong interim protection is needed for identified areas i.e. Tombstone is an example of poor management by government, where they allowed staking to occur."
A respondent, Whitehorse

"Use interim protection of candidate protected areas to create a fair planning process and eliminate unnecessary conflict prior to final boundary determination."
Bob Jickling, Whitehorse

"Sufficient protection exists with current regulations. They simply have to be enforced"
Yukon Chamber of Mines

3.8 Interim Protection (con't.)

Question 8b) When and how should interim protection be used?

What interim protection should apply to	#
• interim protection should apply to development pressures including mineral staking, logging, oil and gas, roads, hydro and in some cases tourism businesses	28
• Full interim protection for all activities is required, not only for mining	12
• Interim protection should only be applied to those activities which could jeopardize the values for potential protection.	6

Where it should be used	
• interim protection should cover the whole study area, not just part of it.	15

Timing for interim protection	
• interim protection should be applied as soon as the study area is defined	17
• interim protection should have a time limit placed on it	15
• interim protection should be used now	13
• interim protection should not have a time limit placed on it	6

Other	
• interim protection should be accompanied with public information and education as to where it is and what the rules for the interim protected areas are	17
• do not repeat the mistakes of the Tombstone situation (incomplete interim protection)	8

Some comments from respondents:

"Total interim protection must be put into place for all proposed study area. Without total interim protection, we risk compromising the ecological and cultural values of the areas we are trying to protect."
YCS

"As soon as a candidate protected area is announced by YTG. Visitor activity plans should also be developed as well as an ecotourism/economic benefit plan."
A respondent, Haines Junction

"Educate and enlighten the public. Easier to manage an informed appreciative public than deal with enforcement based on ignorance and indifference."
Brent Liddle, Haines Junction

"The Yukon government should not set aside small core protected areas now, with interim protection from claim staking, and then identify surrounding larger park study areas with no interim protection. . . . Tombstone is a good example."
A respondent, Whitehorse

"Interim protection of any kind will scare industries away. Interim protection is our biggest concern about this whole strategy. It could put me out of a job."
A respondent, Whitehorse

3.9 Developing the Action Plan

Question 9a) What actions should be taken to implement the strategy?

Start an open and public process for planning protected areas in areas that have completed Land Claims	#
• establish opportunities for public consultation throughout the process	52
• create local community committees to coordinate protected areas planning with other resource planning	35
• educate and inform the public and other stakeholders ~~about the strategy~~ i.e. workshops and maps	10
• provide resources for NGO's, communities and First Nations so they can have meaningful input	8
• coordinate with other planning agencies like LUP	5

Continue negotiating SMAs through Land Claims for areas that have not yet completed their claims.	
• government should continue to negotiate SMA's in good faith with First Nations and complete Land Claims	46

Get on with implementation strongly and quickly	
• get on with the strategy and complete quickly	23
• show political will and commitment for the strategy by allocating adequate staff and financial resources	14
• take a stronger political stand for protected areas	9
• announce the strategy with the identification of several candidate protected areas	7
• give priority to identifying protected areas and core sites as soon as possible	5

Other	
• develop and implement an interim protection policy	8
• detail procedures for conducting mineral assessments	5
• identify candidate sites based on a set of criteria or system of guidelines	5
• legislate the strategy	5

3.9 Developing the Action Plan (con't.)

Some comments from respondents:

"Provide adequate financial resources in the 1998/1999 and 1999/2000 Yukon Territorial Government and Federal Government (DIAND) budgets to facilitate implementation of the Protected Areas Strategy. Include adequate funding for both territorial systems planning and technical support initiatives, as well as local Renewable Resource Councils and other affected Councils and Boards."
CPAWS-Yukon

"The strategy must include a concrete action plan with measurable targets, a clear time frame for achieving it and specific commitments of resources for the strategy's implementation."
YCS

"The first thing is to establish some core protected areas with substantial buffers. Many of these are identified already through the land claims process. The government of the day and the previous government did commit to establishing these by the year 2000."
A respondent, Whitehorse

"Stay on course with workshops, etc. you've been doing well, but make sure all stakeholders have ample opportunity for input i.e. don't concentrate workshops during exploration field season."
A respondent, Whitehorse

"Actions should occur in coordination with Land Use Management planning exercises following First Nations Final Agreements."
Bruce Sundbo, Haines Junction

"First Nations do well protecting their traditional areas. They need more promotion to assist and support these protective strategies."
A respondent, Whitehorse

"Establish one committee with all necessary interest groups represented. Establish a team from the Department of Renewable Resources to work with this group. Allocate the financial resources necessary."
A respondent, Whitehorse

"Establishment of several Territorial Parks ASAP. Protect wetlands and special features like lapis Quarry and Kluane Thunder eggs."
Duane West Haines Junction

"The Yukon Protected Areas Strategy (YPAS) is taking away our ability to negotiate SMAs at the land claims tables. YTG should tell its staff to negotiate SMAs in good faith and complete land claims before starting YPAS."
A respondent, Whitehorse

"The views of all parties must be considered at length. Only act when all views have been considered. Don't rush.
Yukon Chamber of Mines

3.9 Developing the Action Plan (con't.)

Question 9b) By when should these actions be taken?

- now and as soon as possible 49
- in the next two years 7
- complete candidate site selections for ecoregion representation by the years 5
- 2000 - 2001
- implement the strategy with a firm timeline 2

Some comments from respondents:

"As soon as possible. Fall of 1998. Spring of 1999."
A respondent, Haines Junction

"As soon as the First Nation is ready and the joint information management structure is set up."
A respondent, Teslin

"The government should concentrate on completing land claims first. Once that is done in an area, we should start as soon as possible with the broader public process.
A respondent, Whitehorse

Appendix

1.0 Open house locations and number of responses

Total number of respondents:
37 letters, 70 questionnaires and comment sheets

This includes letters from the following businesses and organizations:
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
Equity Engineering Ltd.
Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
Friends of Yukon Rivers
Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation
Village of Mayo
Westmin
Wilderness Tourism Association
Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)
Riverdale Community Association
Sila Sojourns
Tr'ondek Hwechi'in Land Claims
Yukon Chamber of Commerce
Yukon Chamber of Mines
Yukon Conservation Society
Yukon Prospectors Association
Yukon Outfitters Association
Yukon Placer Miners Association

Open House and meeting locations, dates and approximate number in attendance

Location	Date	# Attending
Whitehorse		
High Country Inn	November 17	50
Hidden Valley	November 18	15
Elijah Smith School	November 19	50
Golden Horn School	December 9	10
Geoscience Forum	November 24, 25	20
Yukon College	January 6	20
Faro	November 20	20
Pelly Crossing	November 24	6
Dawson City	November 25,26	25
Mayo	November 28	40
Haines Junction	December 1	30
Old Crow	December 3	38
Watson Lake	December 4	26
Carmacks	December 15	13
Teslin	December 17	20
Carcross/Carcross Tagish First Nations	December 16	20
Burwash / Kluane First Nations	January 15	4

*YPAS staff also attended a protected areas workshop in Inuvik Nov. 24, 26 1997.

1.2 The Protected Areas Questionnaire

We'd like to hear from you...

Your comments will help the Yukon government prepare a draft Yukon Protected Areas Strategy that reflects the interests and desires of Yukon people. Just write in your comments, remove this questionnaire and envelope, and drop it in the mail (no postage required). Please use additional pages if more space is required for your responses.

The deadline for comments on this discussion paper is January 9, 1998.

There may be requests for your comments to be released to the media or other interested parties. Your comments will be released or withheld according to the instructions you provide here. Please check one of the following statements.

- ◊ I do not want my name or my comments released to the public.
- ◊ I have no objections to my comments being released to the public, but I want my name withheld.
- ◊ I have no objections to my comments and my name being released to the public.

_____ name

_____ community

Questions:

1) What is your long term vision for a system of protected areas in the Yukon?

_____

_____

_____

2a) Which types of values and features do you think should be considered priorities for protection?

_____

_____

_____

2b) In what types of areas would you expect to find these values and features?

_____

_____

_____

3a) What role should policy and legislation play in determining which activities should or should not be allowed within different types of protected areas?

_____

_____

_____

3b) What role should management planning play?

_____

_____

_____

4) What methods do you think the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy should use to resolve conflicting interests and values?

_____

_____

_____

5) How can we best encourage inter-agency cooperation in developing a Yukon Protected Areas Strategy and planning for protected areas in the regions?

6a) Who should be involved in protected areas planning within the traditional territories?

6b) What steps should be included in protected areas planning at the traditional territory level?

7) Which regions or traditional territories do you think should be given priority for protected areas planning in the Yukon?

8a) What type of interim protection is needed during the planning and establishment of protected areas in the Yukon?

8b) When and how should interim protection be used?

9a) What actions should be taken to implement the strategy?

9b) By when should these actions be taken?

10) Have we missed anything important in this consultation phase?

11) Are there any other comments about the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy that you would like to make?

12) How do you want be involved in the remainder of the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy process?

For further information: Please contact: Bob Kuiper: Senior Planner, Protected Areas
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1.3 From the questionnaire comments regarding Question 10 "What was missed?"

Question: Have we missed anything important in this consultation phase? Are there other comments about the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy that you would like to make?

- Confusions over Special Management Areas and First Nations
- would like to talk about specific areas near where I live
- want to know how this will impact jobs, services and taxes
- keep in Chamber of Mines, Yukon Prospectors Association involved
- the missing thing is protected areas, government can not even protect existing sites i.e. Kluane Wildlife Sanctuary
- there is no need for Protected Areas if we manage and use the existing policies and legislation properly
- consider multi-use if large areas are considered for protection
- fear that government has already formed its intentions
- this is threatening my livelihood
- I get the feeling you are more concerned about industry than protected areas
- create a series of ecological reserves with First Nations similar to BC as benchmarks to measure changes in surrounding areas dc to activities
- guidelines without legislated laws are useless
- no large protected areas industry needs land
- protected areas are very important to my future vision of the Yukon
- the need to buffer existing protected areas and identify connectivity for wildlife movement is essential for success
- it is an important process and keep the global perspective
- don't forget the government is representing the people and not its own interests
- proceed with the identification of candidate areas from 25 years of protected areas planning
- no staking it is ludicrous that opportunists are permitted to stake in an areas that is being considered for protection
- my vote in the next election hinges on implementation of a strong strategy
- this proposal has identified 23 ecoregions in the Yukon with protected areas within each region to be at 10% on average. This is unrealistic, this number can be reduced by 2/3 rds and still be representative of all ecoregions in the Yukon
- I love the wildlands of the Yukon - that is why I'm here. I fear that if we don't protect our wilderness it will disappear in my lifetime and that would be a huge loss for all
- I believe we already have enough protected areas
- I think we perhaps don't need a protected areas strategy
- This is a great thing for all Yukoners as long as it respects the established rights of individuals and businesses
- get industries ideas
- emphasize that there is a range of protected areas with different allowable activities
- emphasis on ecosystem based management with science decision making
- I want to see action on the ground as well as consultation
- don't make the mistakes that BC made in creating open-ended and highly political protected areas, mineral exploration has been killed by the uncertainty
- don't make the mistake of the south to fail to protect important areas
- carnivore conservation areas should be considered for large carnivores
- need to ensure that agricultural land is identified and kept for agriculture as it is so limited
- want more questions about factors that should be considered when a decision to protect an area is required

- need a new parks act to enhance wildlife habitat protection legislation
- do not compromise much with industry they have had it their way for 100 years
- how will candidate areas be selected; protected areas be monitored; and industry compensated
- the concept of representative areas will lack scientific substance unless biologists with advanced degrees are consulted
- what about the an evaluation of the economic importance of protected areas
- in next consultation show land use maps with more information
- while protected areas will prevent wilderness from being mined and logged, there are concerns about the rules and regulations that come with protection. Will subsistence hunting and wood cutting still be allowed?
- remember the economic value of protected areas
- use land swap if a mineral deposit is found on the edge of a park it is OK to adjust the boundary slightly
- wilderness tourism requires intact wilderness for its future
- prospectors work for years to piece together the geological puzzle in order to interest a larger company in their finds
- an intact environment is compatible with a strong economy in the long term
- tourism represents $124 million of Yukon's economy
- local authority must be in control of the whole process
- strategy should have adequate funding and be open to the public
- allow exploration it requires a large land base
- need to address sites within communities - how does this fit in within the strategy?
- as a First Nation I am glad we are finally protecting our great territory and putting the environment first